

Federal Lead Smelter (ASARCO)-East Side  
LPC# 1190105308  
Madison County  
SF/HRS

# Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment

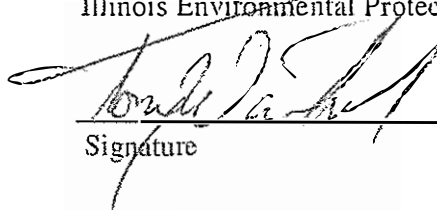


Prepared by:  
Office of Site Evaluation  
Division of Remediation Management  
Bureau of Land

**SIGNATURE PAGE**

**Title:** CERCLA Site Investigation for Federal Lead Smelter (ASARCO)-East Side

**Preparer:** Tony Wasilewski, Project Manager, Office of Site Evaluation,  
Illinois Environmental Protection Agency

  
Signature

4-12-17  
Date

**Approval:** Erica Aultz, Site Assessment Manager, United States Environmental  
Protection Agency, Region 5

Signature

  
Signature

Date

5/9/17  
Date

*The approval signatures on this page indicate that this document has been authorized for information release to the public through appropriate channels. No other forms or signatures are required to document this information release.*

**Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment Report**

**For:**

**Federal Lead Smelters (ASARCO)-East Side  
Alton, Illinois**

**LPC 1190105308**

**PREPARED BY:  
ILLINOIS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
BUREAU OF LAND  
DIVISION OF REMEDIATION MANAGEMENT  
OFFICE OF SITE EVALUATION**

**May 11, 2017**

## **Site Summary**

On January 7, 2016 the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (Illinois EPA) received funding from the Region 5 Offices of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) to conduct a Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment at Federal Lead Smelter (ASARCO) – East Side in Alton, Illinois. The site is located at the south east end of Cut Street south of the city limits of Alton, Madison County, Illinois. The Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment activities typically include a review of available information, a visual site reconnaissance, a determination of current land use, and identify the risk for human exposure to potential contaminants on the subject property and adjacent land.

A Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment is a review of information on potential Superfund sites to determine if the site should be entered into EPA's Superfund Enterprise Management System (SEMS). During the assessment, information will be collected in order to complete the Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment Checklist Form (found as an attachment to the Pre-CERCLA Screening Report). If there is sufficient information that suggests the site may be impacting human health and the environment, the site will be placed in SEMS and will progress through the Superfund investigative process. The Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment is performed under the authority of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) commonly known as Superfund.

The site occupies an area of approximately 112 acres adjacent to a former slough of the Mississippi River at the northern extension of a broad valley known as the American Bottoms. The valley occurs at the confluence of the Missouri and Mississippi Rivers and is bounded to the east, north, and south by steep limestone bluffs. The site, which was formerly used for primary lead smelting by ASARCO, is zoned for industrial use, and has been inactive for approximately 50 years. All major structures were demolished in place.

The site operated as a primary lead smelter by the Federal Lead Smelter Company from 1902 to 1912 and by ASARCO from 1912 to 1959. The smelter structures were constructed on a plateau designated as the Upland Area due to its elevation above the Mississippi River. Wastes generated by lead smelting were managed on-site along the historical floodplain in an area designated as the Lowland Area. A 1.5 million ton, 14-acre pile of lead smelter waste (Slag pile) and two former smelter outfalls were located in the Lowland Area portion of the site. ASARCO demolished the former plant structures in place from 1961 to 1962, with the exception of the Main Emissions Stack, which was taken down in 1989.

It is not known exactly when, but sometime ago the eastern half of the site was sold off. See Figure 1. In 1991, ASARCO entered into the Illinois EPA Site Remediation Program (SRP) and conducted phased investigations through 1995. These investigations primarily identified heavy metal contamination in the Former Plant Site section of the Upland Area, in and around the Slag Pile, and at the former I-Street and K-Street Outfalls in the Lowland Area. The site was ultimately removed from the SRP due to lack of progress and was enrolled in the Illinois EPA's National Priorities Listing (NPL) Unit. The site received a settlement during a bankruptcy proceeding and cleanup was performed under the oversight of the NPL unit. In 2009 ASARCO entered into a bankruptcy agreement that established a Trust for certain ASARCO owned properties that included the Alton, IL site. Only two parcels were addressed under the bankruptcy agreement since the two east properties had already been sold many years ago.

The subject area of this report pertains to the two parcels that were not addressed in the cleanup and will be referred to as Federal Lead Smelter (ASARCO)-East Side. This portion of the property is owned by a holding company. The area associated with the site consists of 2 parcels of property located to the east. See Figure 1 and Figure 2. At one time these parcels were part of the Federal Lead Smelter Company (ASARCO). The two remaining parcels located to the east (see map) are made up of approximately 52 acres. These 52 acres have not

been addressed and are the focus of this Pre-CERCLA Screening Assessment. These pieces of property were apparently sold off at some time and were not included in any investigation or cleanup; although activities of Federal Lead Smelter and ASARCO were conducted on parcels over the years and it is believed that impact from activities that took place at ASARCO could have impacted these parcels as well. It is believed that this property is now owned by a property management group called Black Property Management. This report is recommending that the portion of the property that was not addressed under the cleanup assessment but was part of the Federal Lead Smelter activities be looked at under the CERCLA program and advance to a Preliminary Assessment.

# PRE-CERCLIS SCREENING ASSESSMENT CHECKLIST/DECISION FORM

This checklist can assist the site investigator during the Pre-CERCLIS screening. It will be used to determine whether further steps in the site investigation process are required under CERCLA. Use additional sheets for the narrative.

**Checklist Preparer:**

<b>Tony Wasilewski/Environmental Protection Specialist III</b> (Name / Title)	<b>11/22/2016</b> (Date)
<b>1021 North Grand Ave. East</b> (Address)	<b>217-557-3200</b> (Phone)
<b>Tonv.Wasilewski@illinois.gov</b> (Email Address)	

**Site Name:** Federal Lead Smelter (ASARCO) - East Side

**Other Names (if any):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Site Location:** Cut Street  
(Street)

	<b>Alton</b> (City)	<b>Madison</b> (County)	<b>IL</b> (State)	<b>62095</b> (Zip+4)
<b>Congressional District</b>	<b>9<sup>th</sup></b>			

**Latitude:** +38.87883 **Longitude:** -90.14690

With regards to the Latitude and Longitude, please provide the following information: Accuracy in Meters +/-, Collection Method, Reference Datum, Reference Point, Source Map Scale, Point/Line/Area; Collection Date; Verification Method Check to confirm that geospatial information has been attached ☐

**Complete the following checklist. If "yes" is marked, please explain below.**

	YES	NO
1. Does the site already appear in CERCLIS?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
2. Is there an actual release or potential to release?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
If "yes" to question 2, do any of the following apply?		
3. Is there documentation indicating that a target (e.g., drinking water wells, drinking surface water intakes, etc.) has been exposed to a hazardous substance released from the site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. Are there undocumented potential targets on-site or within one mile of the site?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. Is there sufficient documentation that clearly demonstrates that there is no potential for the release to cause adverse environmental or human health impacts (e.g., comprehensive remedial investigation equivalent data showing no release above ARARs, completed removal action, documentation showing that no hazardous substance releases have occurred, EPA approved risk assessment completed)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
6. Is some other program actively involved with the site (i.e., another Federal, State, or Tribal program)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
7. Is the release from products that are part of the structure of, and result in exposure within, residential buildings or businesses or community structures?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. Does the site consist of a release of a naturally occurring substance in its unaltered form, or altered solely through naturally occurring processes or phenomena, from a location where it is naturally found?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

9. Is the release into a public or private drinking water supply due to deterioration of the system through ordinary use?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
10. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site regulated under a statutory exclusion (i.e., petroleum, natural gas, natural gas liquids, synthetic gas usable for fuel, normal application of fertilizer, release located in a workplace, naturally occurring, or regulated by the NRC, UMTRCA, or OSHA)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
11. Are the hazardous substances potentially released at the site excluded by policy considerations (e.g., deferral to RCRA Corrective Action)?	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Please explain all "yes" answer(s), attach additional sheets or refer to narrative:

**Site Determination:** ☒ Enter the site into CERCLIS. Further assessment is recommended (explain below).

☐ The site is not recommended for placement into CERCLIS (explain below).

#### DECISION/DISCUSSION/RATIONALE

It is recommended that the remainder of the Federal Lead Smelter (ASARCO) site continue in the CERCLA process and receive a Preliminary Assessment. The recommendation is based upon the high levels of lead encountered on the property that has been remediated. The portion of the site this report is referring to is the portion of the ASARCO property that was not addressed during the cleanup.

#### EPA Regional Review and Site Assessment Decision

Check the box(es) that apply:

- ☐ Not a Valid Site or Incident  
**X** Incident for Further Action Under CERCLA

Recommended Further Action:

- ☐ APA  
**X** Full PA  
☐ SI

Defer/Refer to:

- ☐ Removal Program  
☐ State/Tribal Program  
☐ RCRA  
☐ Brownfields  
☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

Regional EPA Reviewer:

Print Name/Signature

Date

State Agency/Tribe:

Tony Wasilewski/  
Print Name/Signature

November 22, 2016  
Date

